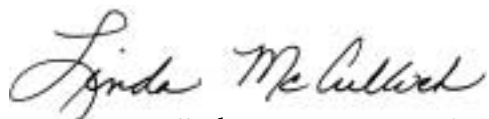


Dear Friends:

Information and knowledge are keys to understanding. In Montana, we have remarkable resources and talent in our communities, schools, and families. Our excellent education system is built on these resources and the collaboration among our professional educators, students, parents, community members, and businesses working together for Montana's future. I am proud of Montana's education system, honored to be leading the efforts to build a bright future for our students, and pleased to present these "Facts About Montana Education." Please visit our website at www.opi.state.mt.us to learn more about education in Montana.



Linda McCulloch, State Superintendent
Office of Public Instruction
August 2002

About the Big Sky State

- Population: 902,195 (2000 Census); 904,433 (2001 Estimate)
- Size: 147,046 square miles (fourth largest state)
- Population density: 6.2 per square mile (2000 Census)
- 570 miles long, 315 miles wide
- Western one-third mountainous and timbered
- Eastern two-thirds plains with occasional mountains
- Elevation range: 1,820 to 12,799 feet above sea level
- Borders three Canadian provinces and four states
- Headwaters for two major rivers—Missouri and Columbia
- Seven Indian reservations
- Primary industries: agriculture, services, government (including education), retail trade

For More Information About Montana, contact:

- Travel Montana (800) 847-4868
- The Montana Dept. of Commerce (406) 841-2700
- The Census & Economic Information Center (406) 841-2740

Montana Postsecondary Education

Supervision of Postsecondary Education

Board of Regents—Appointed by governor

- Supervision and control of Montana University System and coordination of other assigned educational institutions

Postsecondary Institutions

	<i>No. of Institutions</i>	<i>Enrollment*</i>	
		<i>Fall 1999</i>	<i>Fall 2000</i>
University System			
Four-year units	6	32,286	32,059
Colleges of Technology	5	2,863	1,661
Community colleges			
Public	3	<u>2,882</u>	<u>2,466</u>
<i>Total postsecondary enrollment</i>		38,031	36,186

*Source: Montana Office of Commissioner of Higher Education
College of Technology of the U of M—Missoula enrollment is included in the four-year units.
MSU College of Technology—Great Falls enrollment for Fall 2000 is not included.
Enrollment for private schools and Tribal Colleges are not available.

Degrees 1999-2000

Montana's various public institutions of higher learning award about 6,700 degrees every year. Of those, about 67% are bachelors' degrees; 14% masters' degrees; 18% associate degrees; and 1% doctoral degrees, first professional degrees, and certificates.

For more information about postsecondary education in Montana, call the Office of Commissioner of Higher Education at (406) 444-6570 or visit their web site at www.montana.edu/wwwoche.

Montana Office of Public Instruction
PO Box 202501
Helena, MT 59620-2501

In-State Toll-Free 1-888-231-9393, Local (406) 444-3680
www.opi.state.mt.us

FACTS ABOUT



Prepared by the
Montana Office of Public Instruction
Linda McCulloch, State Superintendent
August 2002

Montana Public Schools: Elementary and High School

Supervision of Public Schools

- Board of Public Education*—Appointed by governor
- General supervision and policy
- Superintendent of Public Instruction*—Elected
- General supervision and administrative duties

School Districts 2001-2002

Administrative Units	
K-12 districts	55
Combined districts (<i>joint boards</i>)	105
Independent districts	179
State funded districts	2
Nonoperating districts	4
Total Administrative Units	345

Certified Staff (Full-Time Equivalent) 2001-2002

Teachers - Classroom, Title I, Special Ed.	10,408
Superintendents & Asst. Supts.	150
Principals and Asst. Principals	504
Other - Central Office Program Coordinators	135
Specialists - Library, Guidance Counselors	788
Special Education Directors, School Psychologists	94
Total Certified Staff FTE	12,079



Montana High School Dropout Rate

1997-98	1998-99	1999-00	2000-01
4.6%	4.1%	4.1%	4.2%

From Montana Statewide Dropout Report 2000-01

Montana Public School Enrollment

	2000-01	2001-02	% change 2001 to 2002
Elementary			
Prekindergarten	535	506	
Kindergarten	10,125	10,068	
Grades 1-6	69,379	67,473	
Grades 7-8	24,936	24,451	
Ungraded	165	130	
Total Elementary	105,140	102,628	-2.4 %
High Schools			
Grades 9-12	49,443	48,998	
Ungraded	117	125	
Total High School	49,560	49,123	- 0.9%
State-Funded Schools*			
Elementary (PreK-8)	45	43	
High School (9-12)	130	153	
Total State-Funded Schools	175	196	12.0%
Total Public School Enrollment			
	154,875	151,947	- 1.9%

* The state-funded schools are Pine Hills School, Riverside School and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind.

Student/Teacher Ratio

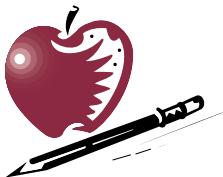
	1999-00	2000-01
Montana average	15.2	14.9
National average	16.1	16.0

U.S. Department of Education, NCES Early Estimates 2002

High School Graduates 2001

High school graduates 2001	10,628
GED* recipients (ages 16 to 19)	1,956

* General Educational Development



Per Pupil Expenditures 2000-01

Montana: \$6,812	National Average: \$7,156
Montana ranks 24th in the nation	

U.S. Dept. of Education, NCES Early Estimates 2002

Test Scores

	1999		2000		2001	
	<u>MT</u>	<u>Natl.</u>	<u>MT</u>	<u>Natl.</u>	<u>MT</u>	<u>Natl.</u>
SAT*						
verbal	545	505	543	505	539	506
math	546	511	546	514	539	514
ACT**	21.8	21.0	21.8	21.0	21.7	21.0

*Scholastic Aptitude Test—In 2001, 23% of Montana graduating seniors took the SAT.

**American College Testing Program—In 2001, 55% of Montana graduating seniors took the ACT.

Advanced Placement (AP) Coursework

	1999	2000	2001
Number of Candidates	1,528	1,596	1,688
Number of Exams	2,170	2,249	2,368

Other Testing

National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

<u>Tested Area</u>	<u>Grade</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Score Nationwide</u>
math	8th	1996	2 nd highest
math	4th	1996	4 th highest
science	8th	1996	2 nd highest
reading	4th	1994	5 th highest
reading	4th	1998	2 nd highest
reading	8th	1998	3 rd highest
writing	8th	1998	9 th highest
math	8th	2000	2 nd highest

Nonpublic Schools K-12

Reported Nonpublic School Enrollment

	1999-00	2000-01	2001-02
Private	8,818	8,537	8,431
Home school	3,447	3,627	3,571
Total	12,265	12,164	12,002

For more information about Montana education, contact the Office of Public Instruction, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501 (406-444-3095). Statistics in this brochure are the most current available as of August 2002.